

*Five Star Restoration Grants Summary
June 25, 2001*

Project Title: Southcentral Alaska Restoration Projects
Five Star Grant: \$20,000
Grant to: Youth Restoration Corp
Project Location: Kenai, Alaska

Sponsored by the Youth Restoration Corp, the objective of this project is to provide educational opportunities to youth by involving them in prioritized restoration efforts in southcentral Alaska. Within the Kenai Peninsula, restoration areas have been identified in the Chugach National Forest, along the Upper Russian River water system, and along the Sterling Highway in Cooper Landing. A total of 2,200 lineal feet will be re-vegetated through this project with native plants (including willow, cottonwood, spruce and alder trees), root wad, and coirlog structures, improving salmon-rearing habitat for Chinook, Coho, Sockeye and Pink salmon, as well as a healthy native rainbow trout population. Twenty-four youth will complete these restoration projects and will gain educational benefits from collaboration with representatives from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the Chugach National Forest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Kenai River Center and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries-Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Suzanne Piluso, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (503) 417-8700

Project Title: Morrison Brothers Dairy Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$5,000
Grant to: Land Partners Through Stewardship
Project Location: Santa Rosa, California

Wetland and riparian habitat will be restored along Laguna de Santa Rosa, one of the largest seasonal wetland complexes in California. The Laguna acts as an important flood control basin for the Russian River watershed which is home to two federally listed species of salmon. Land Partners Through Stewardship will collaborate with the private landowner, the county open space district, a local school and a conservation organization to integrate a conservation education program as well as community outreach into this restoration project. Students and community members will be involved with on-the-ground restoration activities and will also learn about watershed assessment, wildlife and habitat stewardship, and the connection between agriculture and local biodiversity. Partial funding for this grant is being provided by the NOAA Fisheries Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Heather Dempsey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (415) 778-0999

Project Title: Lytton Creek Riparian Restoration and Education
Five Star Grant: \$15,000
Grant to: Circuit Rider Productions, Inc.
Project Location: Geyserville, California

Continuing their successful partnership with the Clos du Bois Vineyard, Circuit Rider Productions, Inc. will restore a larger portion of the Lytton Creek watershed owned by the vineyard. A science-based restoration plan will be developed which will include restoring at least 25 acres of riparian habitat by planting native riparian plant species. Sixty to eighty high school students will learn about riparian ecology and restoration, and the students will develop educational pamphlets and presentations for the community. Through a series of restoration workshops and volunteer planting days, this project will illustrate to local landowners, the agricultural industry, and the greater community that habitat conservation and economically viable farming practices can successfully co-exist. Partial funding for this grant is being provided by the NOAA Fisheries Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Heather Dempsey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (415) 778-0999

Project Title: Lower Natividad Creek/Laurel Lake Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Creative Environmental Conservation
Project Location: Salinas, California

Creative Environmental Conservation will partner with the City of Salinas, California State University at Monterey Bay, Acosta Plaza Neighborhood Association, and others to restore 3 acres of wetland and riparian habitat in the Natividad Creek Corridor. This project will kick off a larger effort to restore the Carr Lake watershed. During four events, school children and community members will plant 5,000 native plants such as arroyo willow, native rushes, coast live oak, and cottonwoods. The long-term goals of this project are to: create habitat for steelhead trout, migrating waterfowl, and riparian-associated birds, improve water quality, reduce flooding, establish nature trails, increase community stewardship of the area, and involve local students in conservation education programs. Partial funding for this grant is being provided by the Nature Restoration Trust, a Challenge Grant Partnership between the PG&E Corporation and the Foundation.

For additional information, contact Heather Dempsey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (415) 778-0999

Project Title: 1912 Cortez Schoolhouse and Nature Preserve
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program
Project Location: Coast of Sarasota Bay, Florida

In partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Communities Trust, Manatee County, the Bureau of Historic Preservation, and the Florida Institute of Saltwater Heritage, the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program will restore 2.5 acres of environmentally sensitive wetlands adjacent to Sarasota Bay and reconnect a 0.5 acre saltwater lagoon to the Bay by removing non-native vegetation that is blocking water flow. By opening the lagoon to Sarasota Bay and planting native vegetation, additional nursery habitat for juvenile fish and marine life will be created. This restoration project is part of a larger effort to preserve the environmental and historical features of the area, including the historic Cortez Schoolhouse in the Village of Cortez. Funding for this grant is provided by the Gulf of Mexico Program, which is a partnership underwritten by EPA, and the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Joe DeVivo, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (404) 679-7120

Project Title: Indian River Lagoon Initiative
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Marine Resources Council of East Florida
Project Location: Indian River Lagoon, Brevard and Indian River Counties. South-central East Coast, Florida

Marine Resources Council of East Florida will restore 100 acres of habitat in the Indian River Lagoon. The invasive species, Brazilian pepper, will be removed and existing native plant species protected along with additional plantings consisting of mangrove trees and numerous other native shoreline species. The Council will utilize local volunteers for the restoration project to promote local community involvement and conservation education of mangrove and seagrass ecosystems, and the importance of native plants and effective invasive species management. Partners for the project include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Indian River Lagoon Program and Florida Power and Light. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Joe DeVivo, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (404) 679-7120

Project Title: Choctawhatchee Bay Shoreline Restoration and Conservation Education
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Okaloosa Walton Community College

Project Location: Destin Harbor and Okaloosa Island Western Panhandle, Florida

The Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of Okaloosa Walton Community College will conduct a salt marsh restoration project at two public and private sites within the outer Choctawhatchee Bay. Objectives of this project include improving salt marshes along the Choctawhatchee Bay shoreline, educating private landowners of this environmentally friendly, low-cost alternative to rip-rap and sea walls, and conservation education through the use of salt marsh planting and a long term monitoring program targeting K-12 students. Partners for the project include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shell Oil and the Shell Marine Habitat Program, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Funding for this grant is provided by the Gulf of Mexico Program, which is a partnership underwritten by EPA, and the NOAA Fisheries=Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Joe DeVivo, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (404) 679-7120

Project Title: The Estuaries Project
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program
Project Location: Coast of Sarasota Bay, Florida

The Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program has developed a comprehensive plan for restoring intertidal and submerged aquatic habitats at twenty locations throughout Sarasota Bay. The project located on the Perico Bayou in Manatee County provides an important opportunity to remove invasive exotic vegetation, restore tidal circulation, enhance native habitat, and provide nature trails. By restoring the area, the project will contribute to the recovery of natural mangrove, salt marsh, and seagrass communities. Partners for this grant include Manatee County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Funding is provided by the Gulf of Mexico Program, which is a partnership underwritten by EPA, and the NOAA Fisheries=Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Joe DeVivo, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (404) 679-7120

Project Title: Hamakua Marsh Restoration Project
Five Star Grant: \$15,000
Grant to: Hawaii Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Project Location: Oahu, Hawaii

The Hawaii Chapter of the Wildlife Society, along with the City and County of Honolulu, Kalama Land Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Lanikai School, and Kailua Urban Design Task Force, will implement the Hamakua Marsh Restoration Project. This project will restore 22 acres of wetland and endangered Hawaiian waterbird habitat. Coupled with the environmental

restoration, the project will include education and outreach through brochures and interactive tours of the restoration site. Partial funding for this project is provided by the NOAA Fisheries Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Heather Dempsey, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (415) 778-0999

Project Title: East Fork of the Salmon River Restoration Project
Five Star Grant: \$8,100
Grant to: Idaho Watersheds Project
Project Location: Challis Ranger District, Idaho

The Idaho Watersheds Project will design and implement a riparian restoration project along the banks of the East Fork of the Salmon River and Lake Creek, coupled with an education project for students and teachers of Challis, Idaho. These waters and their riparian zones are critical habitat for chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The watershed has been severely degraded by agricultural use (reduction and elimination of riparian vegetation and waste from agricultural byproducts). In total, two and-a-half miles of river frontage and 120 acres of riparian habitat will be rehabilitated by native plant revegetation and livestock exclusion (8,100 feet of fencing installed), improving impaired fish and wildlife habitat and water quality. A curriculum will also be designed to give high school students, teachers and volunteers hands-on restoration education. Partners in this project include the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Model Watersheds Project, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Challis and River Wood High Schools, Idaho Conservation League and the Idaho Environmental Council. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries-Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Suzanne Piluso, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (503) 417-8700

Project Title: Mill Creek Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee
Project Location: Chelsea, Massachusetts

In a town ranked the third most environmentally overburdened in Massachusetts, the Chelsea Green Space and Recreation Committee (Green Space) is working to restore a pilot site in the only remaining salt marsh in an area once abundant in wetlands. Partners include the Conservation Law Foundation, the City of Chelsea, the Massachusetts Riverways Program, and the project manager of the adjacent Parkway Plaza. Green Space has already involved more than 2,500 residents in the planning phases of this neighborhood revitalization project. The initial work will include restoring one acre of degraded salt marsh while enhancing education and citizen monitoring programs. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries-Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext.403

Project Title: Sawmill Brook Smelt Habitat Restoration Project
Five Star Grant: \$8,000
Grant to: Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea
Project Location: Manchester, Massachusetts

The Manchester Stream Team in partnership with the Town of Manchester, Salem Sound 2000, Ipswich Bay Fly Fisherman's Association, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Program, Massachusetts Riverways Program, and the North Coastal Basin Team will restore prime smelt spawning habitat on Sawmill Brook in Manchester. Stone retaining walls along the brook will be repaired to stabilize the bank, prevent erosion, restore water flows and uncover gravel spawning habitat. A citizen driven effort will clear invasive plants, trash and other barriers to stream flow and habitat usage. Educational materials on the environmental benefits of riparian buffers will be distributed by the Manchester Stream Team. Local residences will be contacted in person to invite their participation in the stream restoring efforts. The Division of Marine Fisheries will monitor smelt egg deposition, water flows, and the structural integrity of the repaired walls to determine the long-term success of this restoration project and the benefits to smelt populations. Funding for this project is provided by the NOAA Fisheries Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext.403

Project Title: Town Brook Herring Run Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Town of Plymouth
Project Location: Plymouth, Massachusetts

Town Brook in Plymouth, Massachusetts is one of many freshwater streams in the Commonwealth with an existing herring run; however, existing fish ladders at a few dams along the stream are in such disrepair that they are impassible for upstream migration. The Town of Plymouth and other project partners will replace a deteriorated fish ladder under the Newfield Street Bridge and remove an earthen dam and nonfunctional fish ladder at the Billington Street site. After removal of the dam, that portion of the streambed and surrounding habitat will be restored to near-natural conditions. The Town Brook project is being regarded as a precedent for this method of streambank restoration and will serve as a model within the Commonwealth. Funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries=Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext. 403

Project Title: Washington Academy Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Project SHARE
Project Location: East Machias, Maine

The intent of this project is to provide a unique educational opportunity for high school students involving habitat restoration projects in the Dennys, Machais, East Machias, Pleasant, and Narraguagus Rivers where Atlantic salmon were recently listed. Washington Academy will establish and operate a student managed wetland plant nursery for growing native plant material for use at riparian restoration projects in the Downeast Maine salmon rivers. Students will also be directly involved with local riparian habitat restoration activities. Last summer a dam was removed adjacent to the Pope Memorial Bridge in East Machias, Maine. This season, students will help revegetate the area by planting mature trees and shrubs native to the area. They will also be responsible for future maintenance of the site and monitoring the success of the plantings. Other partners include the Maine Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Dennys River Watershed Council, Machias and East Machias River Watershed Councils, and the Washington County Soil Conservation Service. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext. 403

Project Title: Sebasticook Lake Outlet Fishway
Five Star Grant: \$15,000
Grant to: Maine Department of Marine Resources
Project Location: Newport, Maine

The Sebasticook River, the largest tributary to the Kennebec River, contains spawning and nursery habitat critical to the restoration of anadromous fish to the Kennebec. This project would construct a fish ladder with public viewing at Sebasticook Lake Outlet dam and provide education displays about migratory fish. The fish passage would provide direct access to over 4,000 acres of spawning habitat for alewife and American eel. The public viewing and educational area will help teach the public about this effort and the remarkable fish that make the journey from the ocean back to the Sebasticook each year. As one of only a few fish passages with public viewing, this project will increase the number of people who have an opportunity to view the alewife migration and learn more about migratory fish. Other partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext. 403

Project Title: Winchester Dam Removal
Five Star Grant: \$3,500
Grant to: Town of Winchester
Project Location: Winchester, New Hampshire

In a major effort to restore anadromous fish to the Ashuelot River, the Town of Winchester and New Hampshire Fish and Game Department will remove the Winchester Dam, a low-head impoundment owned by the town. This dam removal will open up an additional 12 miles of spawning habitat for river herring, American shad, and Atlantic salmon, and is one of six dam removal and fish passage projects on the river aimed at restoring critical habitat for migratory fish. Funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext. 403

Project Title: Corey Creek Clam and Scallop Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County
Project Location: Southold, New York

Cornell Cooperative Extension will work with the Long Island Captains Association, Southold High School, West Hampton Beach School District, Friends Academy, Mattituck School District, Southold Town Trustees, and Suffolk County Parks and Recreation Department to restore shellfish to a 12 acre site in Corey Creek in the Town of Southold. The site in Corey Creek has been designated as a sanctuary and closed to the public by the Southold Town Trustees specifically for this project. This project will design, develop, and implement a program for students to learn about aquaculture by developing and deploying clam and scallop seedstock as well as adult scallops in the site. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Marta Anderson, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (617) 723-7415 ext. 403

Project Title: Bear Creek Riparian Planting Project
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Rogue Valley Council of Governments
Project Location: Central Point, Medford and Talent, Oregon

This project will develop and implement a riparian tree planting program for the Bear Creek Watershed to improve aquatic and riparian habitat for anadromous fish, including coho, steelhead, chinook salmon and trout. The Bear Creek Watershed has been declared a water quality limited stream by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality due to high phosphate and nitrate levels, temperature, bacteria, and flow and habitat modification. Partners include the REAL AmeriCorps Program, Natural Resource Youth Corps, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Jackson County Roads and Parks, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Bear Creek Watershed Council, Bear Creek Watershed Education Partners and Bear Creek Greenway Committee. Prior to planting, the Rogue Valley Council of Governments will prioritize land in the watershed to select appropriate sites that will benefit from revegetation with native trees and shrubs. In total, 15,000 trees and shrubs will be planted by community members. A five-year monitoring plan for all planted sites will also be implemented. Partial funding for this grant is provided by the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Center.

For additional information, contact Suzanne Piluso, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (503) 417-8700

Project Title: Clear Creek Riverbank Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$10,000
Grant to: Clear Creek Environmental Foundation
Project Location: League City, Texas

As part of a larger effort to restore critical wetlands and habitat within the Galveston Bay area, this project will begin restoring marshes of the Clear Creek river estuary. Volunteers and youth groups will collect grass seeds and grow seedlings to be planted at selected restoration sites. This effort will stabilize the riverbank and conserve important habitat for shellfish, birds and fish within and along the creek. Reliant Energy, ExxonMobil, and the Cities of Harris, Galveston, League, and Nassau Bay are providing support for this project. Funding for this grant is provided by the Gulf of Mexico Program, which is a partnership underwritten by EPA, Lockheed Martin Corporation, and the NOAA Fisheries= Community Based Restoration Program.

For additional information, contact Malia Somerville, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (202) 857-0166

Project Title: Turner-s Bay Restoration
Five Star Grant: \$13,040
Grant to: Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Project Location: LaConner, WA

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community will partner with Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Agriculture, the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Service, Skagit County Noxious Weed Control Board, the Tribal Summer Youth

Corps, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to eradicate 50% of the tideland noxious weed *Spartina anglica* from 6.5 acres of Turner's Bay. This effort will significantly reduce the current threat to the Bay's ecological, social, and economic resources, which include a variety of shellfish and out-migrating juvenile salmon species. This project is part of a larger effort to control *Spartina* and will follow the removal and long-term monitoring guidelines in the Swinomish Tribe's Management Control Plan. Foundation funds will be used for contractual services and supplies for the weed removal.

For additional information, contact Malia Somerville, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (202) 857-0166

Project Title: Native Plants for Riparian Areas
Five Star Grant: \$8,000
Grant to: Skaagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Project Location: Sedro Wooley, WA

The Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will partner with private landowners, The Nature Conservancy, the Skagit Land Trust, the Skagit Conservation District, the Skagit Conservation District, the Skagit System Cooperative, Skagit County, and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to establish a nursery for growing native plants to use at riparian restoration sites along salmon streams. Volunteers and at-risk youth will be involved in growing the plants and transplanting them to restoration projects. This project will support the propagation and growing of native plants, as well as restoration efforts at a minimum of five sites over the next year.

For additional information, contact Malia Somerville, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (202) 857-0166

Project Title: Students for Salmon
Five Star grant: \$15,000
Grant to: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
Project Location: Washington

The Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association (NSEA) will provide teachers with training and support and students with classroom and field-based opportunities to learn how to restore riparian habitat and implement 15 stream restoration projects in Whatcom County, Washington. NSEA will provide technical assistance to 40 classes recruited from seven public school districts, the Lummi Tribal School, several private schools, and home-school groups. Teacher training workshops will be conducted to share resources, curriculum materials, and information about salmon needs, watershed issues, and methods of restoration.

For additional information, contact Malia Somerville, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (202) 857-0166